Message Text

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PAGE 01 DUBLIN 00551 241709Z ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 OC-06 CCO-00 L-03 DODE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 SP-02 OTPE-00 /078 W

-----020745 250041Z/15

R 241525Z FEB 78

FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0213

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USNATO

AMCONSUL BELFAST

UNCLAS DUBLIN 00551

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, ETEL, EI

SUBJECT: IRISH TELEPHONE/TELEX STRIKE CONTINUES

REF: DUBLIN 378

1. THE TELEPHONE/TELEX STRIKE DESCRIBE IN REFTEL CONTINUES THROUGH A THIRD WEEK WITH NO RELIEF IN SIGHT. OVER 700 TECHNICIANS ARE OUT, AND MORE GO OUT EVERY DAY. THE UNION HAS THREATENED TO CLOSE DOWN THE CENTRAL POSTAL EXCHANGE AS OF MONDAY FEB 27, AND WITHDRAW ALL SERVICES FROM DUBLIN AND SHANNON AIRPORTS. THIS COULD SERIOUSLY DISRUPT IF NOT CLOSE DOWN ALTOGETHER AIR SERVICES TO IRELAND. UNCLASSIFIED

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2. MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL HAVE MANAGED TO GET SOME EXTERNAL TELEPHONE & TELEX LINES WORKING SPORADICALLY, BUT IF THE UNION FOLLOWS THROUGH WITH ITS THREATENED FEB 27 ESCALATION THE COUNTRY WILL AGAIN BE COMPLETELY CUT OFF, AS IT WAS IN THE FIRST FEW DAYS OF THE STRIKE.

- 3. NEGOTIATIONS TO SOLVE THE DISPUTE APPEAR TO BE SUSPENDED, AND THE GOVERNMENT STILL MAINTAINS A HANDS-OFF POLICY.
- $\begin{array}{l} {\rm 4.\,\,EMBASSY\,TELECOMMUNICATIONS\,\,ARE\,\,STILL\,\,FUNCTIONING} \\ {\rm SATISFACTORILY.\,\,SHANNON} \end{array}$

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NNN

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TAGS: ELAB, ETEL, EI

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